GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4342
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
CENSUS REPORT
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government aware of the latest Census Report of the literacy as well asthe latest developmental growth of the Districts of Uttar Dinajpur, Bankura, Purulia and Dakshini Dinajpur;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry will make a fresh approach with West Bengal Government to enquire into the reasons for illiteracy as per the Census Report, lack of infrastructural support and other neglect in the development matters including flood management; and

(c) whether Ministry would give any specific direction from the Planning Commissionto the State Government to fight the imbalances of the this area?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Census Report 2001 reveals that the State of WestBengal has achieved a literacy rate of 69.22% against 57.70% during 1991, thereby recording a decadal percentage point increase of 11.52. National Literacy Mission`s drive for achieving increased literacy, has produced significant results in the State. The literacy rates in respect of the districts of Uttar Dinajpur, Bankura, Purulia and Dakshini Dinajpur are given below:

District in 2001 (%age)	in 1991 (%age)	increase in Literacy rate in 1991-2001
Uttar Dinajpur 48.63	34.58	14.05
Bankura 63.84	52.04	11.80
Purulia 56.14	43.29	12.85
Dakshini Dinajpur 64.46	46.40	18.06

Name of the	Literacy rate	Literacy rate %age decadal

Although, the literacy rates, in these districts are lower than that of the State, the decadal increase in these districts has been higher than that of the State as a whole. Many of the districts in West Bengal are now passing from the Basic Literacy phase intothe Basic Literacy and the Continuing Education phase. The aim is to achieve asustainable threshold level of 75% literacy for West Bengal within the next few years.

As for issues relating to lack of infrastructural support and attention to development matters etc., the Planning Commission approves development plan for the State as a whole and not as broken down amongst its regions/districts. The preparation of development projects and their dovetailing with the existing development programmes, for a particular region/district, is a prerogative of the State Government.